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Letter of the Secretary of War, communicating copies of reports upon Indian affairs in the military division of the Missouri

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LETTER
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING

Copies of reports upon Indian affairs in the military division of the Missouri.

FEBRUARY 4, 1869.—Read, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 2, 1869.*

The Secretary of War has the honor to submit to the Senate of the United States the accompanying copies of reports upon Indian affairs in the military division of the Missouri, forwarded by the Lieutenant General commanding that division.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
In the field, Fort Cobb, I. T., December 24, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit the following for the information of the Lieutenant General:

In my last communication I informed the Lieutenant General of the treacherous conduct of that portion of the Kiowas who were not immediately with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and of the arrest of Satanta and Lone Wolf. My suspicions at that time have been fully verified, as the runners found the escaping bands on Otter creek, near Camp Razinimsky, on their way to the lower edge of the Staked Plains; but finding that Satanta and Lone Wolf were to be hung, they have nearly all returned or are en route, as well as 40 of the lodges which were encamped with the Cheyennes. I still hold Lone Wolf and Satanta.

Nearly all the Kiowa tribe were engaged in hostilities, and even in the last fight on the Washita, by their own admissions.

Kicking Bird and Little Heart were there; and after the fight Satanta and others were in the Cheyennes' grand council on the Sweetwater. The Kiowas also made a raid into the settlements in Texas since they left Larned. They are apparently much broken down by being caught in this last act of duplicity, which they cannot explain.

Black Kettle's sister and an Apache chief left here on the 20th to bring in the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and there is a pretty good prospect of their coming in. They are cut off from the actual and moral support of all the Indians here, and may very probably come in; if

not, the delay is for our benefit, and was absolutely necessary to recuperate our horses and get additional supplies from Arbuckle, 100 miles off. Should they not come in I will issue an order outlawing them, and forbidding communication from any one, directly or indirectly, with them, and will order to be hung any Indian so doing, and will proceed against them as heretofore stated.

There is a pretty fair prospect of ending the war and having permanent peace. The movement of troops at this season of the year has filled them with consternation. They had no idea it could be done, and they see we can continue the war at all seasons.

They cannot now sleep at night; they cannot graze their stock without fear; they have no buffalo to eat, they will have no robes to trade, and are feeling very nervous and insecure.

The command is in good health; the horses doing well. I have been able to increase their forage from six pounds to ten. They have been on half forage from the time we left Fort Dodge up to the present; when we move our means of transportation will not permit of a greater allowance. I did injustice to General Hazen in one of my previous communications, stating that he had issued to Black Kettle's band the flour and sugar he had in his camp. Those articles were procured from a trader called "Dutch Bill."

In the grand council on the Sweetwater, a branch of Red river, it was decided that war should be made to the north and west, but not to the east and south, or the few soldiers at Fort Cobb, as it was desirable to keep open that avenue of communication for the purpose of supplies, and an earnest appeal was made to the Indians about Fort Cobb to assist them by furnishing of supplies, and by the use of fresh ponies.

Yours, truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,

A. A. G. Military Div. of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,

January 23, 1869.

Official copy, respectfully furnished the Adjutant General United States army for his information.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman:

W. A. NICHOLS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

February 2, 1869.

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,

In the field, Fort Cobb, I. T., December 26, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Lieutenant General commanding, the following:

Report of Brevet Major General G. A. Custer, of the operations of his command since leaving the depot on the North Canadian, December 7 to the 22d instant.

Report of Dr. Asch, assistant surgeon, acting medical inspector of the sanitary condition of the troops serving in the field south of the Arkansas.

I am, general, very respectfully,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,
A. A. G. Military Div. of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

HEADQ'RS TROOPS OPERATING SOUTH OF THE ARKANSAS,
In the field, Indian Territory, December 22, 1868.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command from the 7th instant up to the present date.

Acting under the instructions of the major general commanding the department, who, though not exercising command of the troops, accompanied the expedition, I moved from the supply depot, on Beaver creek, on the morning of the 7th instant. The expedition was composed of 11 companies of the 7th United States cavalry, 10 companies of the 19th Kansas volunteer cavalry, Colonel S. J. Crawford commanding, a detachment of scouts under Lieutenant Pepoon, 10th cavalry, and between 20 and 30 whites, Osage, and Kaw Indians, as guides and trailers. I aimed by a new route to strike the Washita below and near to the scene of the late battle between the 7th cavalry and the combined bands of the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Sioux, Apaches, and Comanches. On the evening of the 10th my command reached camp on the Washita, six miles below the battle-ground. A halt of one day was made at this point to rest and graze the animals, and to afford an opportunity of visiting the battle-field, to learn, if possible, the exact fate of Major Elliott and his party of 17 men, who, on the opening of the attack on Black Kettle's village, had pursued a party of fleeing Indians beyond our lines, and had never returned. So confident was I of their fate, however, that in my official report of the battle I numbered them in my list of killed. With 100 men of the 7th cavalry, under command of Captain Yates, I proceeded to the battle-field early on the morning of the 11th. Indians had evidently paid a hurried visit to the scene of the late conflict.

The bodies of nearly all the warriors killed in the fight had been concealed or removed, while those of the squaws and children who had been slain in the excitement and confusion of the first charge, as well as in self-defence, were wrapped in blankets and bound with lariats, preparatory to removal and burial. Many of the Indian dogs were still found in the vicinity lately occupied by the lodges of their owners; they probably subsisting on the bodies of the ponies that had been killed and then covered several acres of ground near by. As 10 days had elapsed since the battle, and scores of Indian bodies still remained unburied or unconcealed, some idea may be had of the precipitate haste with which the Indians had abandoned that section of the country. A thorough examination of the immediate battle-ground failed to discover anything worthy of special report, except that Indian bodies were found that had not previously been reported in my first despatch, and which went to prove what we are all aware of now, that the enemy's loss in killed warriors far exceeded the number (103) first reported by me.

In setting out upon our return to camp Captain Yates was directed to deploy his men in search of the bodies of Major Elliott and his party. After marching a distance of two miles, in the direction in which Major Elliott and his little party were last seen, we suddenly came upon the

stark stiff, naked, and horribly mutilated bodies of our dead comrades. No words were needed to tell how desperate the struggle which ensued before they were finally overpowered. At a short distance, here and there, from the spot where the bodies lay could be seen the carcasses of some of the horses of the party which had been probably killed early in the fight. Seeing the hopelessness of breaking through the lines which surrounded them, and which undoubtedly numbered more than one hundred to one, Elliott dismounted his men, tied their horses together, and prepared to sell their lives as dearly as possible. It may not be improper to add that in describing as far as possible the details of Elliott's fight, I rely not only upon a critical and personal examination of the ground and attendant circumstances, but am sustained by the statements of Indian chiefs and warriors who witnessed and participated in the fight, and who have since been forced to enter our lines and surrender themselves up under circumstances which will be made to appear in other portions of this report.

The bodies of Elliott and his little band, with but a single exception, were all found lying within a circle not exceeding 20 yards in diameter. We found them exactly as they fell, except that their barbarous foes had stripped and mutilated the bodies in the most savage manner.

All the bodies were carried to camp; the latter was reached after dark. It being the intention to resume the march before daylight the following day, a grave was hastily prepared on a little knoll near our camp, and, with the exception of that of Major Elliott, whose remains were carried with us for interment at Fort Arbuckle, the bodies of the entire party, under the dim light of a few torches held in the hands of sorrowing comrades, were consigned to one common resting place. No funeral note sounded to measure their passage to the grave; no volley was fired to tell us a comrade was receiving the last sad rites of burial, yet not one of the living but felt that the fresh earth had closed over some of their truest and most daring soldiers!

Before interment I caused a complete examination of each body to be made by Dr. Lippencott, chief medical officer of the expedition, with directions to report on the character and number of wounds received by each, as well as the mutilations to which they had been subjected. The following extracts are taken from Dr. Lippencott's report:

Major Joel H. Elliott—two bullet holes in head; one in left cheek; right hand cut off; left foot almost cut off; * * * deep gash in right groin; deep gashes in calves of both legs; little finger of left hand cut off, and throat cut.

Sergeant-major Walter Kennedy—bullet hole in right temple; head partly cut off; seventeen bullet holes in back, and two in legs.

Corporal Harry Mercer, troop E—bullet hole in right axilla; one in region of heart; three in back; eight arrow wounds in back; right ear cut off; head scalped and skull fractured; deep gashes in both legs, and throat cut.

Corporal Thomas Christie, troop E—bullet hole in head; right foot cut off; bullet hole in abdomen, and throat cut.

Corporal William Carrick, troop H—bullet hole in right parietal bone; both feet cut off; throat cut; left arm broken.

Private Eugene Clover, troop H—head cut off; arrow wound in right side; both legs terribly mutilated.

Private William Milligan, troop H—bullet hole in left side of head; deep gashes in right leg; * * * left arm deeply gashed; head scalped, and throat cut.

Corporal James F. Williams, troop I—bullet hole in back; head and both arms cut off; many and deep gashes in back. * * * * *

Private Thomas Dooney, troop I—arrow hole in region of stomach; thorax cut open; head cut off, and right shoulder cut by a tomahawk.

Farrier Thomas Fitzpatrick, troop M—scalped; two arrow and several bullet holes in back; throat cut.

Private Ferdinand Lineback, troop M—bullet hole in left parietal bone; head scalped and arm broken; * * * throat cut.

Private John Meyers, troop M—several bullet holes in head; scalped; skull extensively fractured; several arrow and bullet holes in back; deep gashes in face; throat cut.

Private Carsten D. J. Meyers, troop M—several bullet holes in head; scalped; 19 bullet holes in body; * * * throat cut.

Private Cal. Sharpe, troop M—two bullet holes in right side; throat cut; one bullet hole in left side of head; one arrow hole in left side; * * * left arm broken.

Unknown—head cut off; body partially destroyed by wolves.

Unknown—head and right hand cut off; three bullet and nine arrow holes in back. * * *

Unknown—scalped; skull fractured; 6 bullet and 13 arrow holes in back; three bullet holes in chest.

In addition to the wounds and barbarities reported by Dr. Lippencott, I saw a portion of the stock of a "Lancaster rifle" protruding from the side of one of the men. The stock had been broken off near the barrel, and the butt of it, probably 12 inches in length, had been driven into the man's side a distance of eight inches.

The forest along the banks of the Washita, from the battle-ground to distance of 12 miles, was found to have been one continuous Indian village, "Black Kettle's" band being above; then came other hostile tribes, camped in the following order: Arrapahoes, under "Little Raven;" Kiowas, under "Satanta" and "Lone Wolf;" the remaining bands of Cheyennes, Comanches, and Apaches. Nothing could exceed the disorder and haste with which these tribes had fled from their camping grounds. They had abandoned thousands of lodge polls, some of which were still standing as when last used; immense numbers of camp kettles, cooking utensils, coffee-mills, axes, and several hundred buffalo robes were found in the abandoned camps adjacent to that of "Black Kettle's" village, but which had not been visited before by our troops.

By actual examination and estimate it was computed that over 600 lodges had been standing along the Washita during the battle and within five miles of the battle-ground, and it was from these villages, and others still lower down the stream, that the immense number of warriors came, who, after my rout and destruction of Black Kettle and his band, surrounded my command and fought until defeated by the 7th cavalry, about 3 p. m. on the 27th ultimo. It is safe to say that the warriors from these tribes that attempted the relief of Black Kettle and his band outnumbered my force at least three to one. On returning from the battle-ground to the camp of my command, and when in the deserted camp which, according to the statement of some of my Cheyenne prisoners who were brought along with me, was lately occupied by Satanta with the Kiowas, my men discovered the bodies of a young white woman and child, the former apparently about 23 years of age, and the child probably 18 months old. They were evidently mother and child and had not long been in captivity, as the woman still retained several articles of her wardrobe about her person; among others a pair of cloth gaiters but little worn; everything indicating that she had been but recently captured; and upon our attacking and routing Black Kettle's camp her captors, fearing she might be recaptured by us and her testimony used against them, had deliberately murdered her and her child in cold blood. The woman had received a shot in her forehead, her entire scalp was removed, and her skull horribly crushed. The child also bore numerous marks of violence.

At daylight on the following morning the entire command started on the trail of the Indian villages, nearly all of which had moved down the Washita toward Fort Cobb, where they had reason to believe they would receive protection. The Arrapahoes and remaining band of Cheyennes left the Washita valley and moved across in the direction of Red river. After following the trail of the Kiowas and other hostile

Indians for seven days over an almost impassable country, where it was necessary to keep two or three hundred men almost constantly at work with picks, axes, and spades, before being able to advance with our train, my Osage scouts on the morning of the 17th reported a party of Indians in our front bearing a flag of truce. At the same time a scout came from the same direction stating that he was from Fort Cobb, and delivered to me a despatch which read as follows:

"HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,

"Fort Cobb, 9 p. m., December 16, 1868.

"To the commanding officer troops in the field :

"Indians have just brought in word that our troops to-day reached the Washita, some 20 miles above here. I send this to say that all the camps this side of the point reported to have been reached are friendly, and have not been on the war-path this season. If this reaches you it would be well to communicate at once with Satanta or Black Eagle, chiefs of the Kiowas, near where you are now, who will readily inform you of the position of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, also of our camp.

"Respectfully,

"W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major General.*"

The scout at the same time informed me that a large party of Kiowa warriors under Lone Wolf, Satanta, and other leading chiefs, were within less than a mile of my advance, and notwithstanding the above certificate regarding their friendly character, had seized a scout who accompanied the bearer of the despatch, disarmed him, and held him a prisoner of war.

Taking a small party with me I proceeded beyond our lines to meet the flag of truce. I was met by several of the leading chiefs of the Kiowas, including those above named. Large parties of their warriors could be seen posted in the neighboring ravines and upon the surrounding hill-tops. All were painted and plumed for war, and nearly all were armed with one rifle, two revolvers, bow and arrows and lance. Their bows were strung. Their whole appearance and conduct plainly indicated that they had come for war. Their declaration to some of my guides and friendly Indians proved the same thing; and they were only deterred from hostile acts by discovering our strength to be far greater than they had imagined, and our scouts on the alert. Some twenty of the principal chiefs of the Kiowas, Apaches and Comanches then approached and proposed to accompany us to Fort Cobb, the Kiowas assuring me that their village was already near that point and moving in to the post. Yet at the time these chiefs were giving me these assurances their entire village, with the exception of the war party which accompanied them, was hastening away toward the Wichita mountains with no intention of proceeding to Fort Cobb, and the proposition of the chiefs to accompany my column was intended as a mere ruse to cover the escape of the village. On reaching camp I gave rations to the entire party of chiefs and warriors who accompanied my column, intending to do no act that might be construed as unfriendly. They all promised to proceed to Fort Cobb with us the following day except two or three, who were to rejoin the village and conduct it to the fort, but upon resuming the march the next morning it was found that but three Kiowas and two Apache chiefs remained; the rest had taken their departure.

Before proceeding far the few who remained intimated their intention and desire to proceed to their village and change their horses as well as to give directions about the movement of the former to Fort Cobb. This they repeated several times along the line of march. I finally permitted the Kiowa chief lowest in rank to set out for his village, with the distinct understanding that it was for the purpose of hastening the march of his people to Fort Cobb. They were then represented as being within less than ten miles of the post. I then placed Lone Wolf and

Satanta, the head chiefs of the Kiowas, and two head chiefs of the Apaches under guard, determined to hold them as hostages for the faithful fulfilment of the promise which they and their people had been under for several months, and which was one of the stipulations of the last treaty made with them.

At the same time I knew it was the intention of the department commander to assemble all the hostile tribes in the vicinity of Fort Cobb, by force if necessary, in order that they might learn the decision of the government regarding past offences and the treatment they might expect in the future.

The communication received through scouts from Brevet Major General Hazen, United States army, superintendent of the southern Indian agency, in which it is stated that "All the camps this side of the point reported to have been reached are friendly, and have not been on the war path this season," occasioned no little surprise upon the part of those who knew the hostile character of the Indians referred to.

We had followed day by day the trail of the Kiowas and other tribes leading as directly from the dead bodies of our comrades, slain by them within the past few days, until we overtook them about 40 miles from Fort Cobb.

This of itself was conclusive evidence of the character of the tribes we were dealing with; but, aside from these incontrovertible facts, had we needed additional evidence of the openly hostile conduct of the Kiowas and Comanches, and of their active participation in the late battle of the Washita, we have only to rely on the collected testimony of Black Eagle and other leading chiefs. This testimony is now written and in the hands of the agents of the Indian bureau. It was given voluntarily by the Indian chiefs referred to, and was taken down at the time by the Indian agents, not for the army, or with a view of furnishing it to the officers of the army, but simply for the benefit and information of the Indian bureau. This testimony, making due allowance for the concealment of much that would be prejudicial to the interests of the Indians, plainly states that the Kiowas and Comanches took part in the battle of the Washita; that the former constituted a portion of the war party whose trail I followed, and which led my command into Black Kettle's village; and that some of the Kiowas remained in Black Kettle's village until the morning of the battle.

This evidence is all contained in a report made to one Thomas Murphy, superintendent of Indian affairs, by Phillip McCaskey, United States interpreter for Kiowas and Comanches. This report is dated Fort Cobb, December 3, while the communication from General Hazen, vouching for the peaceable character of the Kiowas and other tribes, is dated at the same place 13 days later. It cannot be explained by supposing General Hazen ignorant of the information contained in the report, as I obtained a copy of the report from him. It only proves what the Indian bureau regards as "friendly" Indians. In addition to all the above evidence and facts, a personal conversation with Lone Wolf, Satanta, Black Eagle, and other prominent chiefs, convinces me, even had we no other information to rely upon, that a large number of the Kiowas, led by Kicking Bird and other Kiowa chiefs, voluntarily participated in the battle of the Washita, and that they formed a considerable portion of the hundreds who surrounded and killed Major Elliott and his party. The horse ridden by one of my men who was killed in that battle has since been recognized in the hands of a Kiowa.

All this testimony is more than confirmed by the statements of a very intelligent Cheyenne squaw, sister of Black Kettle, who is among my prisoners, and who, on account of her intelligence and character, I de-

spatched a few days ago as bearer of a message to the hostile Cheyennes. She pointed out to me, when in the vicinity of the late battle-ground, the location of Satanta's village at the time of the battle. She, as well as other of my prisoners, are confident as well as positive that Satanta and his tribe were there, and that they participated in the engagement. It was from her, too, that I learned that it was in Satanta's village that the bodies of the white woman and child were found. I have not intimated to Lone Wolf or Satanta that all this evidence is in our possession, nor do I propose doing so until the last Kiowa has come in.

Soon after reaching this point it became evident that these chiefs were attempting their usual game of duplicity and falsehood. Under the pretence that their village was coming to this point to renew friendly relations with the government, they visited my headquarters and professed the most peaceable intentions. It was only after receiving information that their village was attempting to escape to the mountains, it was deemed necessary to resort to summary measures to compel these refractory chiefs to fulfil their promise.

They were placed under a strong guard the moment we reached this point. Even this failed to produce the desired effect. All evidence went to show that their village was still moving farther off. Then it was that I announced to Lone Wolf and Satanta the decision which had been arrived at regarding them. I gave them until sunrise the following morning to cause their people to come in, or to give satisfactory evidence that they were hastening to come in. If no such evidence appeared, both these chiefs were to be hung at sunrise to the nearest tree. At the same time I afforded them every facility to send runners and communicate their desires to their tribe. This produced the desired effect. By sunrise several of the leading Kiowas came to my camp and reported the entire village on the move, hastening to place themselves under our control. At this date I have the satisfaction to report that all the Apaches, nearly all of the Comanches, and the principal chiefs and bands of the Kiowas have come in and placed themselves under our control; not to make a treaty and propose terms of settlement, but begging us to announce the terms upon which they can be allowed to resume peaceful relations with the government. Of the five tribes which were hostile at the opening of this campaign, three are already in our power, being virtually prisoners of war.

The remaining two, the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, were the principal sufferers in the battle of the Washita, and are, no doubt, the most anxious of all to abandon the war-path. They are supposed to be concealed in the mountains, 40 or 50 miles from this point, awaiting the result of the present negotiations with the three tribes now assembled here.

On the 20th instant I sent one of my prisoners (a Cheyenne squaw, sister of Black Kettle,) and a leading Apache chief, as bearers of a message to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. As in the case of the tribes now here, no promise or inducement has been held out. I have made no pretence to be friendly disposed. Whatever I have asked the tribes to do or accede to has been in the form of a demand.

They have, from the commencement of this campaign, been treated not as independent nations, but as refractory subjects of a common government.

I have every reason to believe that within a few days, or weeks at furthest, the two remaining hostile tribes, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, smarting under their heavy losses in the battle of the Washita, will unconditionally come in and place themselves under the control of this command, willing to accede to any terms that may be proposed to them. The tribes now here have discarded the arrogant ideas in the indulgence of which the numerous treaties recently entered into have encouraged

them. They now seem to realize that the government, and not a few thieving, treacherous chiefs of predatory bands of savages, backed up and encouraged by unprincipled and designing Indian agents, is the source of all authority.

The chiefs now have repeatedly informed me that they no longer claim the right to propose terms regarding the future course of the government towards them, but are not only ready but anxious to accede to any rule marked down for their control and guidance.

The above, I believe, contains a brief statement of the operations of this command, and the results thereof up to this date. Everything indicates a speedy, satisfactory, and permanent solution of the Indian difficulties so far as the tribes referred to are concerned.

It is not proposed that they be permitted to resume peaceful relations with the government until proper atonement be made for past offences, and sufficient guarantee for future good conduct be given.

I take pleasure in adding that, although I am in command of the forces composing this expedition the major general commanding the department has accompanied it in person, and all negotiations and official action on my part regarding the Indian question has been in accordance with his previously expressed desire, or has received his subsequent approval.

In relation to the battle of the Washita I find, by taking the admissions of the Indians who are now here and who participated in the battle, that the enemy's loss far exceeded that reported by me in my first despatch concerning the fight. I reported 103 warriors left dead in our possession. The Indians admit a loss of 140 killed, besides a heavy loss in wounded. This, with the prisoners we have in our possession, makes the entire loss of the Indians in killed, wounded, and missing not far from 300.

The report of the Indians regarding their heavy losses is confirmed by the fact that on the march, and when revisiting the battle ground, we found dead Indians six miles from the scene of the battle, where they had probably crawled and died after receiving their wounds. These of course were not reported in my first despatch. The head chiefs now here admit that the Indians have never suffered so overwhelming a defeat with such terrible losses.

Upon referring to the terms of the treaty defining the limits of the reservations upon which these hostile tribes were to locate themselves, and upon which they were to remain, it is found that the battle of the Washita took place nearly 100 miles outside the limits of the reservation.

Respectfully submitted:

G. A. CUSTER,

Brevet Major General U. S. A., Commanding Expedition.

Brevet Lieut. Col. J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,

A. A. A. G., Department of the Missouri.

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,

In the field, Fort Cobb, I. T., December 24, 1868.

COLONEL: In compliance with instructions from the major general commanding the department, I have the honor to make the following brief statement in regard to the sanitary condition of the troops in the field south of the Arkansas.

In making a campaign in such a season of the year as that in which the present one was undertaken, in winter, over a barren country, with supplies necessarily limited, and, no covering for the troops but shelter tents, it might with justice be expected that the rates of sickness caused by exposure to cold and inclement weather would of necessity be large, and that, perhaps, sameness of diet, impossible to be avoided when carrying army rations, destined for a long period, in a country where no depot was to be reached, would have given rise to dietetic diseases calculated to impair the efficiency of the men, but I am happy to be able to say that up to the present time no such forebodings have been realized. The command exhibits a remarkable degree of health, the more noteworthy as nearly half of it is composed of raw troops enlisted for special service, and entirely unused to the kind of duty required of them.

During the month of October the 7th United States cavalry in the field, with a mean aggregate strength of 662 men, had taken upon sick report 56 men, a percentage of 8.45. There were remaining sick at the end of the month 11, a percentage of 1.65. During November the same regiment, with a mean aggregate strength of 800, had taken on sick report 96, a percentage of 12, and had remaining unfit for duty at the end of the month 18, a percentage of 2.25. Of these men 10 were wounded at the battle of the Washita, and the remainder were unfit for duty from accidental causes.

In December up to date, 24th instant, there have been taken on sick report in the 7th cavalry, 60; a percentage of 7.78. There remains unfit for duty 6, 0.778 per cent.; a remarkable small ratio at any season of the year.

In the 19th regiment Kansas volunteer cavalry, which left Topeka for Camp Supply, on the 6th of November, 1868, with an aggregate mean strength of 999, there occurred during the month 150 cases of disease, a percentage of 15, and there were remaining sick at the close of the month 27; 2.7 per cent. Of these cases more than 25 per cent. are due to malaria contracted before entering the service, and more than one-third of them are the result of accidental causes. About 21 cases, seven of them frost-bite, appear to be the result of exposure. But it must be taken into consideration that this regiment suffered unusual hardships in a march of 355 miles, during which it lost its way in a severe snow storm, was out of rations, and in addition was composed of men unused to campaigning. In the month of December I find a notable improvement in the health of this command, with an aggregate mean strength of 796. There has been taken on sick report up to date, December 24, 64 men, a percentage of 8, and there remain unfit for duty 15; little over two per cent. As in the preceding month, many cases of malarial disease, the result of previous exposure, occur, and but few cases fairly attributable to the season. There occurred in the command during the month nine cases of frost-bite.

I find on comparing the report of sick and wounded of the 7th cavalry for the present campaign with those for the spring and summer, that not only is the ratio of sick to well men smaller now, but that the number of men on daily report is less now with 11 troops in the field, than at that time with but five.

During the present march the command has experienced unusually cold weather. Rivers were crossed when the thermometer was at zero, men and horses emerging covered with ice, yet there is record of but 17 cases of frost-bite, all of them so slight as to detain the men from duty but a few days, and but one case of pneumonia.

At present date there is but one man in hospital, and he is suffering from an accidental gunshot wound.

I append a tabular statement of the number of men on sick report in the 7th United States cavalry from April to December, 1868, and in the 19th Kansas for November and December.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
MORRIS J. ASCH,
Assistant Surgeon and Bvt. Major U. S. A., Act. Med. Inspector.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. S. CROSBY,
A. A. A. G., Department of the Missouri.

Tabular statement of men on sick report in the seventh United States cavalry, in the field, from April to December, 1868.

Month.	Mean aggregate strength.	Number taken on sick report during the month.	Number remaining on sick report on last day of the month.	Ratio of total number taken sick to aggregate mean strength.	Ratio of number unfit for duty on last day of the month to aggregate mean strength.	Remarks.
April.....	328	37	5	11.28	1.52	
May.....	339	63	19	18.58	5.6	
June.....	345	56	15	16.2	4.34	
July.....	329	27	7	8.2	2.1	
August.....	432	60	8	13.88	1.85	
September.....	558	58	17	10.39	3.04	
October.....	662	56	11	8.45	1.65	
November.....	800	96	18	12	2.25	During this month the battle of the Washita was fought, and a number on sick report are wounded.
December.....	771	60	6	7.78	0.778	

Tabular statement of men on sick report in the ninetecnth Kansas volunteer cavalry, November and December, 1868.

Month.	Mean aggregate strength.	Number taken on sick report during the month.	Number remaining on sick report on last day of month.	Ratio of total number taken sick to aggregate mean strength.	Ratio of number unfit for duty on last day of the month to aggregate mean strength.	Remarks.
November.....	999	150	27	15	2.7	During November the regiment marched from Topeka to Camp Supply, 355 miles, during a severe snow-storm; it lost its way, and its rations giving out, the men were obliged to subsist on such game as they could kill.
December.....	796	64	15	8	2	

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 February 2, 1869.

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
In the field, Fort Cobb, I. T., December 27, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward the enclosed communications from General Hazen, showing some of the depredations of Kiowa and Comanche Indians on the frontier settlements of Texas since the treaty of Medicine Lodge, in the fall of 1867.

There are at the present time three parties of hostile Indians from the bands now being fed at this place depredating on the frontier of Texas. Their headquarters were at Webster mountain, on North Fork of Red river, and according to the reports of Indian runners, just in, their village of from forty to sixty lodges was totally destroyed by a large party of troops from Texas, at 12 o'clock on Christmas day. The day was cold, and the village was surprised, captured, and destroyed. They report one chief shot through the face, most of their stock and everything in the village destroyed.

I give this as an Indian report, believed by them; if true, I suppose the trail of one of the parties in Texas was followed to their headquarters, as Custer followed the trail to Black Kettle's village.

Only about 50 lodges of the Kiowas are in; cause, I presume, their inability by falsehood to conceal their hostile acts.

I am, general, very respectfully,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General U. S. Army.

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General, St. Louis, Mo.

MASON, MASON COUNTY, TEXAS, *June 12, 1868.*

DEAR SIR: After a long silence I again implore you in regard to my lost child; have you learned anything more definite about her?

There is a report that she has been seen near Fort Leavenworth, and that you do not purchase her because it will encourage them to steal more. I have always felt safe in you, that you would do right, and still do; but you cannot imagine how these reports do hurt me, to hear of my dear child being alive and suffering among such people, if it is right to call them people.

Please do not delay one day when you get this to write and let me know the worst. God is just, and in him I trust.

Your humble and grief-stricken servant,

G. W. TODD.

Colonel LEAVENWORTH.

Official:

W. B. HAZEN,
Brevet Major General.

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, January 23, 1869.

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,
Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, December 24, 1868.

It has perhaps already come to your notice that the custom of the Comanches and Kiowas of making raids into Texas for murder and robbery has not been checked since their treaty at Medicine Lodge creek. I have enclosed for your perusal copies of letters from McCusker, interpreter, and Walkley, acting agent, both having been on the spot all the time, showing but partially their operations since January 1 of the present year.

I also enclose copies of two letters from people in Texas, where these outrages have been committed.

These Indians have forfeited every right under their treaties, as well as of humanity, and should be dealt with accordingly. To hang all the principal participants in this outlawry, and to disarm and dismount the rest, with an ample force stationed among them, is in my opinion the mildest remedy that promises a certain cure.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major General.*

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,

United States Army, Commanding

Department of the Missouri, in the field.

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

FORT COBB, I. T., *December 22, 1868.*

SIR: It would be impossible for me or any one else to give you anything like a correct account of the number of raids that have been made into Texas by the Kiowas and Comanches since the treaty at Medicine Lodge creek. Since the time the council broke up all the young men of the Comanches who were able to go have been raiding into Texas, except some of the Yapparickoes. During the past summer the Kiowas and Yapparickoes have been upon the Arkansas, and have not done much raiding; but since their return a large party of Kiowas have been to Texas. The Comanches who were camped here during the spring, summer, and fall made a great many raids into Texas, the young men vieing with each other who should make the most trips. The number of horses and mules that have been brought from Texas by the Comanches during the past year is almost incredible. You can have some idea, when you know that in going to Texas they split into parties of two and three, and generally stay there till they make a good haul. When they reach camp with their horses they seldom stay more than one or two nights, when they go again. Now suppose we let all the available young men of the Kiowas and Comanches keep this thing up for a year, and you can form some idea of the amount of stock driven off, to say nothing about the number of lives they take. It has been such a common occurrence for them to go to Texas that no notice was taken of it unless they returned to this place with scalps. At one time they brought in one, and on another occasion seven, scalps. During the month of January the Kiowas made a raid into Texas, when they killed several families, and took seven children prisoners, who all froze to death. In the month of February they made another raid, when they killed several persons, drove off large numbers of stock, and took five children

prisoners, two of whom were given up to Colonel Leavenworth, and three taken to Arkansas, where they were given up.

The principal leaders in these raids were Heap of Bears, (since killed,) Big Bow, Little Heart, Lone Wolf, Timbered Mountain, and Papachitkan, or the Scalps. Black Eagle made one or two raids against the Navajoes, but I do not think he has raised his hand against the white man since the treaty. During the month of May a party of Comanche warriors of the Yapparickoes, Teckat Kenna, and Quahade bands, made a raid on Texas, calling on Mr. Shirley, the trader at this place, as they passed, and plundered his store of a valuable stock of Indian goods. On their return they burned a building that Agent Shanklin had erected, and in which were stored a lot of agricultural implements and tools, which were all burned.

It is generally believed that this burning was done by a Quahade by the name of Etsed. They also burned Shirley's new trading-house.

Another raid was made by the Noconees and Tedniong during the latter part of the month of August into Texas, when they killed eight persons, three of whom were boys, and the other five men and women. They also drove off about 300 head of animals.

This party was led by Preationminen, a Noconee, and one of the worst men of Prairie. He does not deny that he killed several persons in this raid. Many other raids were made during the summer and fall by the Buffalo Eaters, Quahades, Tedininna, Tedchat-kenna, Noconees, and Yapparickoes. The Yapparickoes drove a lot of stock out of the Chickasaw nation quite lately. There were some Kiowas with the party; one of them was killed by the Seminoles, and one of the Seminoles killed a Yapparickoe. This party was led by Queenah-occe, and the Seminole was killed by a son of Iron Mountain. Twelve of the Noconees of Horseback's band are now absent in Texas.

The names of the men who have been constantly getting up these parties and making war in Texas are, of the Noconees, Pre-ah-nimme, Pe-ah-Firth-Crek, Ese-ah-He-cone, Quas-ah-twin-me, Leeth-ta, (Horseback's son;) of the Ted-Nim-mas, Iron Jacket's son and his nephew; of the Penttakers, Take-wap-pe, Tam-way-same, Tah-sen-tine, Ped-arsed; of the Yapparickoes, Queen-a-Vie, Hoc-wias-Tumme, Queen-a-Nar-oy-yet, Muza-pap, Para-wap, Iron Mountain's sons; of the Ted-Chath-Kennas, Tar-bay-nah-nakay. This is one of the leading men among the Comanches, and from all I can learn took a very prominent part in the late fight with the troops near Antelope Hills, the Cheyennes saying that he distinguished himself above all others by his bravery during the fight. This, however, is Indian talk, but I think it is reliable. He has always been opposed to the white men coming into this country, and he has frequently told me that any attempt to establish military posts in this country would be followed by war.

There are a great many other bad men among the Cochetakers and Quahades, who have been guilty of a great many crimes, but I am not acquainted with the particulars.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 PHILIP McKUSKER, *U. S. Interpreter.*

Major General W. B. HAZEN,
Commanding Southern Indian District.

Official:.

W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major-General.*

A true copy:

I. SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Bvt. Lieut. Col., A. D. C., A. A. A. G.

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS, *A. A. G.*

FORT COBB, I. T., *December 23, 1868.*

DEAR GENERAL: In compliance with your wish in reference to the Indian raids in Texas, I compile the following: The raid in June was made by the Cochetakers, members of the Co-che-na and Ada-hab-teels bands, and in that raid the three McElroy children were captured, one young man killed, uncle to the children, in Grayson county.

The raid in July was made by the Noconeas, led by Silvershirt. Horseback's son was along. They killed an entire family of four persons on the Brazos.

The raid near Spanish Fort was made about the first of September, 1868; was started by To-sa-wee's son-in-law. He offered the pipe to the Caddoes, who refused to join him. He next offered it to Horseback's son, who took it and smoked, thereby accepting the challenge. It was not offered to the affiliated tribes, and quite a number agreed to go. Before this party started it numbered 54 warriors, having been joined by a party of Yapparickoes. On their way to Texas they came across Coctee-noaco-che-te-kah, who went out from the agency on a hunt. He asked the party to stop and stay with him. I have learned that he talked to them strong in trying to dissuade them from going to Texas. Some of the party came back from Cochena's camp, but 34 went on. They were 10 Noconeas led by Horseback's son; 4 Penetakers, Fosawee's son-in-law leading the party; 1 Wichita; 3 Kechees; 2 Kiowas; 2 Cochetakers, and 12 Yapparicoes.

On their return, September 2, 1868, they brought eight scalps and a large number of horses and mules. The party that returned to their camps near the agency held a scalp dance at the Noconee and Penetaker's camp.

I will give you their own account of the raid. They said they came in sight of a fine home; put out their sentinels. One reconnoitred; he said that the windows had curtains which were put back on each side. He saw a woman through the window sitting in a rocking chair; he signalled to his comrades that all was right, and 13 entered the house with a whoop, some through the windows, and some through the doors. The woman was afraid and fell on the floor; the 13 ravished her; Iosa-wis's son-in-law being the first and Horseback's son the last, who killed her by striking his tomahawk into her head. Iosa-wis's son-in-law then scalped her, and then killed three or four of her children. The party then started up the river, killing and stealing as they went. They also say that they had two white squaws, whom they ravished as much as they wanted and then threw them away. On September 20, 13 Witehitas, I mean belonging to the affiliated tribes, came in bringing 10 horses, which their chiefs took from them and sent to Fort Arbuckle. Trowkenua Jim can tell you all about it, as he took the horses to Arbuckle.

The Caddoes have not been exempt from making raids into Texas. There are some four or five, led by Polecat, who have been down several times to steal horses and mules. They have never killed any one as I can learn. I think you can find out the names of all who have been engaged in the raids by a little careful inquiry. The chiefs of the different bands and tribes know the men belonging to their bands who have committed any depredations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. J. WALKLEY.

Official:

W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major General.*

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY, *A. A. A. G.*

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS, *A. A. G.*

PILOT POINT, PENTON COUNTY, TEXAS, *April 1, 1868.*

DEAR SIR: I thought I would write you a few lines concerning a child I had captured by the Indians. The particulars of the case are these: On the evening of the 5th January a party of Indians, supposed to be 100 in number, came down Clear creek, in Cork county, and killed several persons and captured several. They came to my house and killed my father—he was near 70 years old; captured my sister and her child and two little daughters of mine, one six and the other eight years old. The youngest was found dead on the trail; it turned very cold that night, and I suppose the youngest froze to death. The next morning my sister made her escape; that night they killed her child, about three miles from where they captured it. They also took a negro boy with the balance on the same raid. There was one other found dead on the trail. The others we have no account of. I think in all probability they are froze; but it is probable that some one of them got through, and, if any one, it might be mine. I have heard they report all froze, but it may be they want some pay for them; if they have any, and if they have got mine, and will bring it in, I will pay them until they are satisfied, if I have got enough property to satisfy them.

Colonel, I would give a world, if I had it, for my dear children back again. Their poor heart-broken mother is grieving herself to death for them. It is a hard trial; it looks like it is more than we can bear, but we have no way to help ourselves. Colonel, if you will do what you can for us, I will be under obligations to you all the remainder of my life and will pay you liberally for all your trouble. My child is eight years old, fair complexion, light hair, and blue eyes. Colonel, please make an effort, and if you can get her I will pay all damages. If you get any information that would do us any good, please write to me at Gainesville, Texas, and send word to William Foresher, at Elm Springs. I will close by begging you most earnestly to do what you can to get our child.

Your friend, as ever,

DANIEL G. MESSASER.

Colonel LEAVENWORTH.

Official:

W. B. HAZEN,
Brevet Major General.

A true copy:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY, A. A. A. G.

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS, A. A. G.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *February 2, 1869.*

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,
Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, January 2, 1869.

General Sheridan has probably reported the full status of affairs here. A delegation of Cheyennes and Arapahoes have been in to sue for peace, and I think they are now ready to accept terms that will give assurance of sincerity. The hostile phase of the business with these two tribes I

look upon as closing. The malcontents of the Comanches and Kiowas are still to be dealt with, and, for the good of all parties, I hope they will receive a sound thrashing from one of the outside columns. They have had ample warning and have played a double part all the time.

The entire business will be probably settled within six weeks, and all the Indians on their reservations. I think it best to take the Cheyennes and Arapahoes at once to their reservation, in place of keeping them here till spring, placing the two bands on separate parts of their country. They have no love for each other, and it will be well to at once divide their remaining power and influence. I will have all the people here, with their agent, Boone, and go up with the others. Two things are now essential, and I trust you will appreciate them. They must be made to feel that crime is followed by punishment, and there must be left among them a force strong enough to always punish. This will solve the whole question, and the matter of husbandry will follow easy enough. I have already taken ample steps in this matter for the coming season.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,
Brevet Major General.

Lieut. General W. T. SHERMAN, U. S. A.

Official copy respectfully furnished the Adjutant General of the army for his information.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman:

W. A. NICHOLS, A. A. G.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *February 2, 1869.*

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. G.

Ex. Doc. 40—2